

Remarks/Arguments

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office action mailed June 14, 2004. Claims 3, 6-9, 12 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 17 and 18 have been amended. Claims 19-27 have been added to more completely cover certain aspects of the invention. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 15-27 are pending in the application.

Fig. 6 has been amended to correct a numbering error. Applicant respectfully requests that the drawing correction be carefully reviewed and approved by the Examiner.

On page 2 of the Office action claim 12 is objected to. Claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice. The snap lock connection feature of claim 12 has been added to claim 1. This addition to claim 1 makes explicit that which was implicit in the original claim. Claim 5 is rejected because the Examiner asserts there is insufficient antecedent basis for "the latch." Claim 5 is amended to overcome the rejection.


On pages 2-3 of the Office action, claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,712,649 to Mano et al. ("Mano"). Independent claims 1, 17 and 18 now recite a spring engaging the tab and engaging a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab to bias the tab to a closed position. In this regard, Mano discloses a spring engaging the lever 105 and the plate 101 not a portion of the spring clip connector other than the tab, as recited in claims 1, 17 and 18. Claim 1 has also been amended to expressly recite a faceplate. Therefore, the Applicant submits that Mano does not anticipate claims 1, 17 or 18, or any claims dependent thereon.

Application Serial No. 10/606,165
Amdt date December 14, 2004
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In view of the above amendments and remarks it is submitted that all pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 15-28, as amended are patentably distinct over the cited prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 6, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

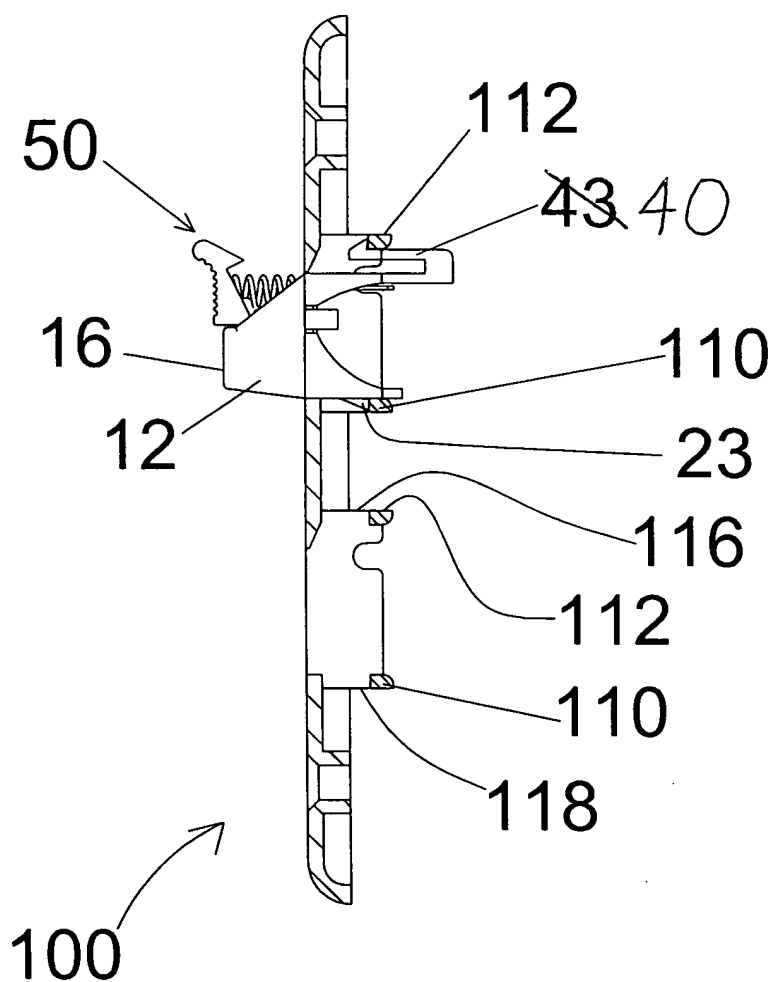


FIG 6